



C A L I F O R N I A D E P A R T M E N T O F

# Mental Health

[www.dmh.ca.gov](http://www.dmh.ca.gov)

## OPEN EXAMINATION FOR ATASCADERO STATE HOSPITAL SENIOR PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN (SAFETY)

The Department of Mental Health is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer committed to ensuring the rights of every applicant and employee to work in an environment free from unlawful discrimination and harassment and without regard to race, color, sex/pregnancy, gender, age (40 and above), religion, marital status, national origin, ancestry, disability (mental and physical, including HIV/AIDS), medical condition (i.e., cancer or genetic characteristics), political affiliation or opinion, or sexual orientation.

It is the objective of the State of California to achieve a drug-free state workplace. Any applicant for State employment will be expected to behave in accordance with this objective because the use of illegal drugs is inconsistent with the law of the State, the rules governing civil service, and the special trust placed in public servants.

### EXAMINATION TYPE

This is an open examination for the Department of Mental Health. Examination and/or Employment Applications will not be accepted on a promotional basis. Career credits do not apply.

### HOW TO APPLY

Please submit an Examination and/or Employment Application (STD. 678) form to the address indicated below. **DO NOT SUBMIT EXAMINATION AND/OR EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION FORMS TO THE STATE PERSONNEL BOARD.**

**NOTE:** All Examination and/or Employment Application forms must include: "to" and "from" dates (month/day/year); time base; and civil service class titles. Examination and/or Employment Application forms received without this information will be rejected. Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of a completed Examination and/or Employment Application (STD. 678) form.

### WHERE TO APPLY

MAIL OR HAND DELIVER EXAMINATION AND/OR EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION FORMS TO:

**ATASCADERO STATE HOSPITAL  
EMPLOYMENT OFFICE  
PO BOX 7005  
ATASCADERO, CA 93423  
(805) 468-3384 / TDD (805) 468-2009**

### EXAMINATION ELIGIBILITY LIMITATION

A candidate may be tested only once during any testing period. The testing period for this classification is once every 12 months. If you have taken an examination for this classification with the Department of Mental Health, Atascadero, Coalinga, Metropolitan, Napa or Patton State Hospitals or with Salinas Valley or Vacaville Psychiatric Programs, within the last 12 months, you are not eligible to compete in this examination.

### FINAL FILE DATE

**November 14, 2008.** Examination and/or Employment Application forms must be **POSTMARKED** no later than the final filing date. Examination and/or Employment Application forms postmarked, personally delivered or received via interagency mail after the final filing date will not be accepted. Examination and/or Employment Application forms must have an original signature; therefore, faxed forms will not be accepted for any reason.

### SPECIAL TESTING ARRANGEMENTS

If you have a disability and need special testing arrangements, mark "yes" on Question #2 on the Examination and/or Employment Application form. The Selection Services Unit will contact you to make special testing arrangements

### IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED

Note: Accepted applicants are required to bring either a photo identification card or two forms of signed identification to each phase of the examination.

**SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**SENIOR PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN(S)**

**TL51/8252/8AH12**

**Final Filing Date: 11/14/08**

EXAMINATION DATES	It is anticipated that interviews will be held during January or February 2009.
SALARY RANGE	Range S - \$4937 - \$5060 / month Range T - \$5152 - \$5314 / month Range U - \$5381 - \$5579 / month
REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMITTANCE TO THE EXAMINATION	It is your responsibility to make sure you meet the education and/or experience requirements stated on this announcement on the date you submit your application. Your signature on your Examination and/or Employment Application form indicates that you have <u>read</u> , <u>understood</u> , and <u>possess</u> the basic qualifications required.  NOTE: All applicants must meet the education and/or experience requirements for this examination by the final filing date.
MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS	Qualifying experience may be combined on a proportionate basis if the requirements stated below include more than one pattern and are distinguished as "Either" <b>I</b> , "or" <b>II</b> , "or" <b>III</b> , etc. For example, candidates possessing qualifying experience amounting to 50% of the required time of Pattern I, and additional experience amounting to 50% of the required time of Pattern II, may be admitted to an examination as meeting 100% of the overall experience requirement.  Possession of a valid license to practice as a Psychiatric Technician issued by the BVNPTE. <b>AND</b>  One year of experience performing the duties of a Psychiatric Technician (Safety) or Psychiatric Technician in a California State hospital or developmental center.
SPECIAL PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS	An interest and willingness to work at a State hospital; understanding of the behavior of patients' emotional stability; patience; tolerance; tact; alertness; neat personal appearance; and hearing and vision required for successful job performance.
SPECIAL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS	Possession and maintenance of sufficient strength, agility, and endurance to perform during physically, mentally, and emotionally stressful and emergency situations encountered on the job without endangering the health and well being of the incumbent, fellow employees, patients, or the public.
POSITION DESCRIPTION	As shift leads, incumbents lead and train a group of Psychiatric Technicians (Safety) engaged in custody activities and basic behavioral and nursing care and other assigned staff. Incumbents may also be assigned to especially difficult or complex duties such as directing or monitoring patient activities in a therapy program.
POSITION LOCATION(S)	Positions exist at Atascadero State Hospital.
EXAMINATION INFORMATION	<b>This examination will consist of a Qualifications Appraisal Interview only, weighted 100%.</b> In order to obtain a position on the eligible list, a minimum rating of 70% must be attained. <b><i>Candidates who do not appear for the interview will be disqualified.</i></b>
EXAMINATION SCOPE	<b>Qualifications Appraisal Interview – Weighted 100%</b>  Knowledge of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Custody procedures, and public and property protection policies.</li> <li>2. Fundamentals of nursing care.</li> <li>3. General behavioral and psychiatric procedures.</li> <li>4. Forensic client behavior as it pertains to various commitments.</li> <li>5. Mental health principles and techniques involved in the care and treatment of individual or groups of developmentally or mentally disordered forensic clients.</li> <li>6. Current first-aid methods.</li> <li>7. Medical terminology.</li> <li>8. Pharmacology.</li> <li>9. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation.</li> <li>10. Restraint and seclusion policies and procedures.</li> <li>11. Hospital procedures.</li> </ol>

12. As shift leads, incumbents lead and train a group of Psychiatric Technicians (Safety) engaged in custody activities and basic behavioral and nursing care and other assigned staff. Incumbents may also be assigned to especially difficult or complex duties such as directing or monitoring patient activities in a therapy program.

Ability to:

1. Learn and apply sound judgment in emergency situations requiring appropriate action to maintain the safety and security measures of a State hospital's environment.
2. Apply basic nursing knowledge, skills, and attitudes.
3. Establish effective therapeutic relationships with mentally disordered forensic clients.
4. Recognize symptoms requiring medical or psychiatric attention.
5. Think and act quickly in emergencies.
6. Work with a treatment team to provide occupational, recreational, vocational, and educational therapy programs for forensic clients.
7. Follow oral and written directions.
8. Develop clear and concise reports.
9. Analyze situations accurately and take effective action.
10. Lead the work and development of a group of nursing staff.
11. Effectively assume a lead-person role to assist in providing a work environment that ensures safe continuous care for clients and the operation of the nursing unit in a State hospital.
12. Read and understand English for the purpose of interpreting medical terminology and pharmacology.

## ELIGIBLE LIST INFORMATION

A departmental open eligible list will be established for the Department of Mental Health. The eligible list will be used to fill vacancies at Atascadero State Hospital only. The list will be in effect for a minimum of 12 months. It will be abolished after 48 months or the completion of a subsequent examination, whichever occurs first.

## VETERANS PREFERENCE

Veterans preference credit will be added to the final score of all competitors who are successful in this examination and who qualify for, and have requested, these points.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**For an examination without a written feature** it is the competitor's responsibility to contact the Department of Mental Health, Selection Services Unit at (916) 654-2351 three weeks after the application deadline date if she/he has not received a progress notice.

**If a competitor's notice of oral interview** or performance test fails to reach her/him prior to the day of the interview due to a verified postal error, she/he will be rescheduled upon written request.

**Examination and/or Employment Application (STD. 678) forms are available** at the State Personnel Board, local offices of the Employment Development Department, the Department of Mental Health, and accessible on the internet at [www.spb.ca.gov](http://www.spb.ca.gov).

**If you meet the requirements** stated on this bulletin, you may take this examination, which is competitive. Possession of the entrance requirements does not assure a place on the eligible list. Competitors who pass will be ranked according to their scores.

**The Department of Mental Health** reserves the right to revise the examination plan to better meet the needs of the service if the circumstances under which this examination was planned change. Such revision will be in accordance with civil service law and rules and all competitors will be notified.

**Examination Locations:** When a written test is part of the examination, it will be given in such places in California as the number of competitors and conditions warrant. Ordinarily oral interviews are scheduled in Sacramento. However, locations of interviews may be extended as conditions warrant.

**Eligible Lists:** Eligible lists established by competitive examination, regardless of date, must be used in the following order: 1) subdivisional promotional, 2) departmental promotional, 3) multidepartmental promotional, 4) servicewide promotional, 5) departmental open, 6) open. When there are two lists of the same kind, the older must be used first. Eligible lists will expire in one to four years unless otherwise stated on this bulletin.

**General Qualifications:** Competitors must possess essential personal qualifications including integrity, initiative, dependability, good judgment and ability to work cooperatively with others; and a state of health consistent with the ability to perform the assigned duties of the class. A medical examination may be required. In open examinations, investigation may be made of employment records and personal history and fingerprinting may be required.

**SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Veterans' Preference:** California law limits the granting of veterans preference credits to entrance examinations. Veterans, widows, widowers, and the spouse of a disabled veteran may qualify for veterans' preference credits in Open entrance examinations (15 points for disabled veteran; 10 points for other veterans). Applicable points will be added to the final score of all candidates who are successful in this examination, and who qualify for, and have requested these points. Due to changes in the law, which were effective January 1, 1996, CURRENT CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE ACHIEVED PERMANENT CIVIL SERVICE STATUS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE VETERANS' PREFERENCE CREDITS. Directions on how to apply for veterans' preference credits are on the Veterans' Preference Application Form (Form 1093) which is available from State Personnel Board Offices, written test proctors, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, P.O. Box 942895, Sacramento, CA 94295-0001.

**High School Equivalence:** Equivalence to completion of the 12th grade may be demonstrated in any one of the following ways; 1) passing the General Education Development (GED) Test; 2) completion of 12 semester units of college-level work; 3) certification from the State Department of Education, a local school board, or high school authorities that the competitor is considered to have education equivalent to graduation from high school; or 4) for clerical and accounting classes, substitution of business college work in place of high school on a year-for-year basis.

**Career Credits:** In open, nonpromotional examinations, career credits are granted to: 1) State employees with permanent civil service status, 2) full-time employees of the State who are exempt from State civil service pursuant to the provisions of Section 4 of Article VII of the California Constitution, and who meet all qualification requirements specified by the Board and have 12 consecutive months of service in an exempt position, and 3) individuals who have served one full year in, or are graduates of, the California Conservation Corps (eligibility shall expire 24 months after graduation from the California Conservation Corps). Three points are added to the final test score of those candidates who meet the above criteria, and who are successful in the examination. Such examinations cannot be for managerial positions described in Government Code 3513. Competitors not currently employed in State civil service who have mandatory reinstatement rights may also be eligible for career credits, but they must explain their civil service status in the appropriate section of the Examination and/or Employment Application (STD. 678) form. (Section 4 of Article VII of the California Constitution is posted at the State Personnel Board, 801 Capitol Mall, Sacramento.)

*TDD is Telecommunications Device for the Deaf and is reachable only from phones equipped with a TDD Device.*

---

## DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

1600 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

TDD is a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf and is reachable only from phones equipped with a TDD Device.  
From TDD Phones: 1-800-735-2929  
From Voice Phones: 1-800-735-2922